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ABSTRACT

Post-high school activities of 1983 California graduates were studied as part of the initial phase of a 5-year follow-up study. Of 11,512 graduates who were mailed a questionnaire, 4,040 responded. About 75 percent indicated that they were enrolled in a school or college during the last fall or winter; about 49 percent were employed and about 16 percent were unemployed. Only a small proportion were involved in other activities, such as military service (3.3 percent in the fall and 2.3 percent in winter), job-training programs (2.9 and 2.5 percent, respectively), or such activities as travel, missionary or church-related service, and homemaking (3.5 percent). Of those respondents who were working, 62 percent were also attending school or college. In general, women were more likely to report involvement in several activities, while men were more likely to identify a single activity. The proportions of black respondents participating in postsecondary education was the lowest among five ethnic groups (67.8 percent), while 91 percent of Asian respondents reported attending school. A substantially larger than average proportion of men than women attended out-of-state postsecondary institutions. Information on characteristics of the graduating class and the survey respondents is also provided. The questionnaire is included. (SW)

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THE FIRST FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1983

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The Commission consists of 15 members. Nine represent the general public, with three each appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Governor. The other six represent the major educational systems of the State.

The Commission holds regular public meetings throughout the year at which it takes action on staff studies and adopts positions on legislative proposals affecting postsecondary education. Further information about the Commission, its meetings, its staff, and its other publications may be obtained from the Commission offices at 1020 Twelfth Street, Sacramento, California 95814; telephone (916) 445-7933.

THE FIRST FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1983

A Staff Report from the 1983 Eligibility Study on the Post-High School Activities of High School Graduates

CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION
1020 Twelfth Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Commission Report 84-25

June 1984

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INTRODUCTION

In the 1982-83 Budget Act, the Governor and the Legislature directed the California Postsecondary Education Commission to undertake the fourth study of high school graduates' eligibility for the University of California and the California State University since 1961. To implement the 1983 Eligibility Study, the Commission requested approximately 15,000 randomly selected transcripts from California's high schools for members of their 1983 graduating class. The information on the transcripts about the academic performance of these students forms the basis for calculating eligibility estimates, but the sample of students provided an opportunity for state educational policy makers to learn what activities California's high school graduates choose to participate in after graduation.

In the 1983-84 Budget Act, the Governor and Legislature extended support for the Commission to undertake as part of the 1983 Eligibility Study the first year's survey of a five-year follow-up study of graduates' post-high school activities. The plan for the study proposes at least two contacts with these students during each of the next five years or until such time as the level of response falls below that needed for meaningful results. This past January, the Commission conducted the first of these follow-up surveys. The purpose of this report is to describe the results of this survey.

A number of concerns directly influenced the nature and extent of this survey. Most important, the high rate of mobility among young Californians was expected to affect adversely the number of contacts, and thus responses, possible from the survey. Making preliminary contact with the members of the sample as quickly as possible was thus a high priority in order to acquire new addresses or identify permanent addresses at which the graduates could be reached.

Early contact with graduates was somewhat thwarted, however, by transcript acquisition and processing delays. But by last December 15, transcripts had been received for 12,285 of the graduates, or 83 percent of those that had been originally requested; these 12,285 graduates formed the study population for the first survey.

In the course of routine processing, 61 student transcripts were excluded from the surveying effort due to faulty addresses, but by early February, 12,224 questionnaires had been mailed to the graduate sample (a copy of the questionnaire is reproduced on page 3). The Postal Service returned 712, or 5.8 percent of the surveys as undeliverable. Commission staff will be corresponding with high school staff in an effort to obtain correct addresses for these graduates.

The remainder of this report presents the findings of the survey, compares the nature of the respondents with what is known about the 1983 graduating class at large, and proposes several hypotheses about graduates' post-high school activities that can be tested when more complete information is available. Two facts about the survey should be noted here, however:

- The ethnic distribution of the students surveyed and of the respondents is not directly comparable with either that of the overall 1983 graduating class at large or with the expected composition of the overall Eligibility Study sample of 15,000 students, which was designed to provide an adequate basis for making reliable statewide generalizations and valid inference about students in the major ethnic groups. While the report explores the nature and degree of compatibility between the 4,040 respondents and the overall sample of 15,000 graduates, the extent to which these respondents represent all 1983 California high school graduates must await further data acquisition and analysis.

- One of the primary objectives of the Eligibility Study's follow-up surveys is to compare students' eligibility to attend either the University or the State University with their actual post-high school activities. However, individual eligibility determinations for all graduates will not be available until later this summer and thus the relationship between these factors cannot be quantified at this time.

Dear High School Graduate:

You have been selected to participate in the first statewide study of California high school graduates to help the Governor and the Legislature understand the needs and plans of young Californians. Approximately one out of every 20 students who received a high school diploma in 1982-83 has been chosen at random, and you are one of these people. Your answers to these few questions are very important. Please take the time to respond. We will be sending you similar questionnaires from time to time, and we will be telling you what we learn as we go. Thank you.

1. What are you doing now? (Please check all boxes that apply.)

   ☐ Working
   ☐ In the Military
   ☐ Unemployed
   ☐ In School or College
   ☐ In a Job-Training Program
   ☐ Other (Please describe: _____)

2. What were you doing in October 1983? (Please check all boxes that apply.)

   ☐ Working
   ☐ In the Military
   ☐ Unemployed
   ☐ In School or College
   ☐ In a Job-Training Program
   ☐ Other (Please describe: _____)

3. If you were attending school or college, what is the name and city of the institution(s):

   Name: _____
   City: _____

4. If the information on the attached address label is incorrect, please write the correct information here:

   Name: _____
   Number and Street: _____ Apt # _____
   City, State, and ZIP: _____

5. If there is another address through which you can always be contacted (such as, your parents), please indicate it here:

   Number and Street: _____ Apt. # _____
   City, State, and ZIP: _____

If you did not graduate from high school between September 1982 and August 1983, check here: ☐ I did not graduate in 1982-83.

If you do not wish to continue to be a part of this study, please check here: ☐

Please fold this paper so that our mailing address shows, staple it closed, and mail. Postage has been paid. No Postage Necessary.

Thank you for helping us with this important, statewide study.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Callan, Director
California Postsecondary Education Commission

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POST-HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES OF RESPONDENTS

Of the 11,512 members of the high school class of 1983 who are believed to have received a follow-up survey from the Commission in early February, 4,040 of them, or 35 percent, had responded by May 15. This level is well within the 30-40 percent response rate typical of mailed surveys that do not have subsequent follow-up efforts. Table 1 summarizes the six major categories of activity in which these 4,040 respondents were engaged in October 1983 and at the time they were completing the survey. Respondents were allowed to check as many of the categories that applied, and 1,934 of them reported engaging in more than one of the six activities during last fall as did 1,960 during this winter.

Three quarters of the respondents indicated that they were enrolled in a school or college during last fall or winter. These institutions include not only California's degree-offering colleges and universities, which are included in the Commission's annual reports on college going rates, but also out-of-state colleges and universities, non-degree granting proprietary institutions in California or elsewhere, and public Regional Occupational Centers/Programs and K-12 adult schools.

About half of the respondents indicated that they were employed during this period, while approximately 16 percent characterized themselves as unemployed. Only a small proportion were involved in other activites, such as military service (3.3 percent in the Fall and 2.3 percent in Winter) job-training programs (2.9 and 2.5 percent, respectively), or such other activities as travel, missionary or church-related service, and homemaking (3.5 percent).

TABLE 1 Number and Proportion of Respondents Reporting Involvement in Each Activity Category, Fall 1983 and Winter 1984

Activity	Fall 1983		Winter 1984	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Working	1,987	49.2	2,030	50.2
In School/College	3,033	75.1	2,956	73.2
In the Military	96	2.3	134	3.3
In a Job-Training Program	104	2.5	118	2.9
Unemployed	663	16.4	668	16.5
Other	138	3.4	145	3.5

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission.

Choices of Activities

While school and work predominated the activities of these 4,040 young Californians, the nature of their activities has many more facets than the simple tally of Table 1 reveals. Table 2 presents a nonduplicated count of the respondents by the activity categories from Table 1, expanded to include second and third activities and ordered from greatest participation to least. Multiple activity categories are only reported once; thus if respondents indicated they were in school and working, their response is counted in the "In School, And Working" category and only noted in parentheses in the "Working, And in School" category.

Most of the respondents who indicated that they were attending school or college were engaged in multiple pursuits. In Fall 1983, only 31 percent participated in no other activity but school, while another 44 percent were in school and involved in other activities, primarily work or looking for work. A decline in the number of those only attending school between Fall and Winter mirrored the comparable decline in the proportion of those participating in postsecondary education. The proportion of students involved in multiple activities in addition to school remained relatively stable during these two periods.

Of those respondents who were working, most -- 62 percent -- were also attending school or college. Between Fall and Winter, the proportion of working respondents increased whether they were also in school (from 30.3 to 31.2 percent) or working only (from 14.5 to 15.4 percent). Those leaving school or job-training programs and those who had been unemployed contributed to this growth in the number of workers.

Between Fall 1983 and Winter 1984, the number of the few graduates involved in job-training programs and the Armed Forces also increased, but they were the singular activities of only 1.9 percent in the Fall and 3.2 percent in Winter.

Differences in Activities of Men and Women

While school and work dominate the activities of both men and women, Table 3 shows that men were somewhat more likely than women to report school as their sole activity, whereas women were more likely than men to be both in school and working or looking for work. In the Fall, men were somewhat more likely than women to report work as their sole activity, but in Winter this pattern was reversed, and women were more likely than men to identify work as their only activity. As one would expect, men were much more likely than women to be serving in the Armed Forced during both seasons.

In general, women were more likely to report involvement in several activities while men were more likely to identify a single activity. Whether this finding reflects actual differences in the activity patterns of men and women or is merely an artifact of differential response behaviors requires further study.

TABLE 2 Number and Proportion of Respondents Reporting Involvement in a Specified Activity or Set of Activities, Fall 1983 and Winter 1984

Activity	Fall 1983 Number (4,040)	Fall 1983 Percent	Winter 1984 Number (4,040)	Winter 1984 Percent
In School				
Only	1,251	31.0	1,143	28.3
And Working	1,223	30.3	1,262	31.2
And Unemployed	413	10.2	411	10.2
And in a Job-Training Program	13	0.3	15	0.4
And in the Military	0	--	0	--
And Other Activity	16	0.4	14	0.4
And Two or more Additional Activities	117	2.9	111	2.8
Working				
Only	585	14.5	624	15.4
And in School	(1,223)	--	(1,262)	--
And in a Job-Training Program	19	0.5	18	0.4
And in the Military	6	0.1	14	0.3
And Other Activities	54	1.3	34	0.8
And Two or More Additional Activities	48	1.2	34	0.8
	(52)	--	(44)	--
Unemployed				
Only	170	4.2	159	3.9
And in School	(413)	--	(411)	--
And in a Job-Training Program	6	0.1	8	0.2
And in the Military	1	0.0	2	0.1
And Other Activity	16	0.4	33	0.8
And Two or more Additional Activities	1	0.0	2	0.1
	(56)	--	(53)	--
In a Job-Training Program				
Only	7	0.2	36	0.9
And in the Military	1	0.0	2	0.1
And in School	(13)	--	(14)	--
And Working	(19)	--	(18)	--
And Unemployed	(6)	--	(8)	--
And Two or More Additional Activities	(58)	--	(40)	--
In the Military				
Only	67	1.7	90	2.2
And Working	(6)	--	(14)	--
And in a Job Training Program	(1)	--	(2)	--
And Unemployed	(1)	--	(2)	--
And Other Activity	0	--	(2)	--
And Two or More Additional Activities	(63)	--	(24)	--
Other Activity Only	26	.7	28	0.7

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

TABLE 3 Proportion of Men and Women Reporting Involvement in a Specified Activity or Set of Activities, Fall 1983 and Winter 1984

Activity	Fall 1983 Men N=1,828	Fall 1983 Women N=2,211	Winter 1984 Men N=1,828	Winter 1984 Women N=2,211
In School				
Only	32.5	29.7	30.5	26.5
And Working	27.8	32.3	28.1	33.9
And Unemployed	8.2	11.9	9.0	11.1
And in a Job-Training Program	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
And Other Activity	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.2
And Two or more Additional Activities	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.5
Working				
Only	15.4	13.8	14.6	16.2
And in School (see above)				
And in a Job-Training Program	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5
And in the Military	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.1
And Other Activities	0.7	1.9	0.9	0.8
And Two or More Additional Activities	1.8	0.9	1.5	0.4
Unemployed				
Only	4.6	3.9	4.1	3.9
And in School (see above)				
And in a Job-Training Program	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
And in the Military	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
And Other Activity	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.9
And Two or more Additional Activities	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
In a Job-Training Program				
Only	0.2	0.2	0.8	1.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
In the Military				
Only	3.2	0.4	4.6	0.3
And Other Activity	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other Activity Only	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

Differences in Activities Among Ethnic Groups

Respondents whose ethnicity is identified as white compose 73 percent of the response group, while Asian graduates constitute 6.5 percent; Black, 5.4 percent; Hispanic, 11.4 percent; and other -- including American Indian and Filipino -- 2.0 percent. Tables 4 and 5 provide information about variations in activity patterns among ethnic groups. American Indian, Filipino, and Other respondents are grouped together not because their activity patterns are necessarily the same but because the number of respondents in each group, and thus the proportion involved in each set of activities, is too small for meaningful comparisons.

Asian Respondents: School was by far the predominant activity of Asian respondents with 91 percent reporting school as one of their activities last Fall and Winter. Further, Asian respondents were significantly more likely than any other ethnic group to report school as their sole activity -- 48.4 percent and 47.6 percent in each respective time periods. Another 40 percent or more indicated that in addition to school they were either working or looking for work. Because of this large rate of postsecondary educational involvement, Asian respondents were less likely than any other group to report involvement in any other activity or set of activities in either period.

Black Respondents: The proportions of Black respondents participating in postsecondary education was the lowest among the five ethnic groups, 67.8 percent. Black respondents were also the least likely of the groups to indicate that they were going to school or college and working. However, they were the most likely to state that they were looking for work while going to school. Furthermore, Black respondents were the most likely to report involvement in two or more activites in addition to attending school or college last Fall and second only to "Other" ethnic respondents this Winter.

Among all respondents who were not in schools, work was a more common activity among Black respondents than any other ethnic group. Further, the decline in the proportion of Black respondents reporting participating in post-secondary education between Fall (67.8 percent) and Winter (65.6 percent) was reflected in a comparable increase in the proportion of Blacks who were working (25.2 percent in Fall and 28.4 percent in Winter). Particularly striking was the large proportion of Black respondents who were involved in work and some other activity. In general, a larger proportion of these nonstudent Black respondents than any other nonstudent subgroup reported involvement in sets of multiple activities. The proportion of Black respondents involved in the remaining activity categories -- unemployment, in a job training program, in the Armed Forces, and other activities -- were at or below the average rate of participation for the whole group.

Hispanic Respondents: Despite a somewhat lower proportion of Hispanic respondents than white respondents reporting participation in postsecondary education, these two groups of students have similar patterns of activities. A similar proportion of these two sets of students reported involvement in all activity categories except being unemployed. Hispanic respondents were more likely than white respondents to indicate that they were unemployed.

TABLE 4 Proportion of Respondents by Ethnic Group Reporting Involvement in a Specified Activity or Set of Activities, Fall 1983

Activity	Ethnic Group[1]				
	Asian N=256	Black N=223	Hispanic N=458	White N=2,956	Other N=78
In School					
Only	48.4	25.7	26.7	30.5	37.3
And Working	23.5	14.9	29.6	32.0	24.3
And Unemployed	16.6	20.2	12.0	8.5	12.8
And in a Job-Training Program	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
And Other Activity	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.0
And Two or more Additional Activities	1.9	6.0	2.6	2.8	5.1
Working					
Only	5.7	11.7	17.7	15.0	14.1
And in School (see above)					
And in a Job-Training Program	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
And Other Activities	0.4	13.5	0.7	0.7	0.0
And Two or More Additional Activities	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0
Unemployed					
Only	1.1	3.6	3.7	4.7	2.5
And in School (see above)					
And in a Job-Training Program	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
And Other Activity	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.2	1.3
And Two or more Additional Activities	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
In a Job-Training Program					
Only	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
In the Military					
Only	0.0	1.3	2.0	2.8	1.3
Other Activity Only	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.6	1.3

1. Included responses for American Indian and Filipino graduates.

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

TABLE 5 Proportion of Respondents by Ethnic Group Reporting Involvement in a Specified Activity or Set of Activities, Winter 1984

Activity	Ethnic Group				[1]
	Asian N=265	Black N=223	Hispanic N=958	White N=2,958	Other N=78
In School					
Only	47.6	24.2	24.0	27.6	33.3
And Working	23.4	16.2	30.2	33.2	25.7
And Unemployed	18.1	18.4	10.5	8.8	11.5
And in a Job-Training Program	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
And Other Activity	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0
And Two or more Additional Activities	0.9	5.9	2.2	2.5	6.4
Working					
Only	5.3	27.4	16.8	15.3	12.8
And in School (see above)					
And in a Job-Training Program	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.0
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.0
And Other Activities	0.4	0.0	0.9	1.0	0.0
And Two or More Additional Activities	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0
Unemployed					
Only	1.5	3.6	7.4	3.8	2.6
And in School (see above)					
And in a Job-Training Program	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	1.3
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
And Other Activity	0.8	0.5	2.0	0.6	0.0
And Two or more Additional Activities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
In a Job-Training Program					
Only	0.4	0.0	0.7	1.1	1.3
And in the Military	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
In the Military					
Only	0.4	0.9	2.4	2.4	5.1
And Other Activity	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
Other Activity					
Only	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.0

1. Includes responses from American Indian and Filipino graduates.

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

In Fall 1983, while Hispanic respondents were second to Black respondents in the proportion working, they had the largest proportion reporting work as their sole activity. By Winter 1984, the proportion of Black respondents whose sole activity was work, exceeded the proportion of Hispanic respondents so engaged. Another shift in the relative participation rates of some importance for Hispanic respondents is the change in the proportion unemployed. While the proportion of Hispanic respondents citing unemployment as their sole activity in the Fall was below the overall proportions of respondents in this category, by Winter, their proportion in this category doubled. The growth in the proportion of those unemployed reflects the relative decline in Hispanic respondents participation in postsecondary education.

For the remaining categories -- job-training programs, military service, and other activity, the proportion of Hispanic respondents so engaged was relatively stable and only slighlty above the average for the whole group.

Other Ethnic Groups: In terms of postsecondary educational activities, the remaining ethnic minority group -- "Other" -- is most similar to the Asian responses. While their overall rate of participation is substantially less -- 79 percent compared to 91 percent for Asians, -- like Asians a relatively large proportion cites school as its sole activity and a relatively small proportion report combining school with work or looking for work. Among all groups, this subgroup was the most likely to be engaged in a single activity, regardless of which category.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CHOICES OF RESPONDENTS

In several of the major categories of activity, the relatively small participation rates and limited number of respondents precludes any detailed discussion of difference among groups. However, one category -- enrollment in school or college -- includes a substantial number of respondents, and the survey form provided additional information on this subgroup of respondents for Fall 1983. Table 6 summarizes this data.

As noted earlier, three-quarters of the survey respondents indicated their involvement in some form of postsecondary education. If the two segments that are not included in the Commission's college-going rate calculations are excluded -- out of state schools and colleges, and other noncollegiate California schools -- the proportion of respondents in California postsecondary institutions is 64 percent. While this is somewnat higher than the statewide rate of 61.4 reported for 1982 in the Commission's college-going rates report, variations in segmental definition and response rates account for the difference. A major difference in definition involves the California independent schools and colleges, which for the purpose of this report include any private postsecondary institution, whereas the prior report includes only collegiate institutions. Differences in rate at which students in the public segments responded to the survey is quite different from their reported representation in those segments. Students enrolled in the University and State University were more likely to respond to the survey and students at the Community Colleges were less likely to respond than would have been expected from data in the Commission's most recent college-going rate report.

Choices among postsecondary educational opportunities is not unidimensional, in that many factors contribute to variation in the pattern of enrollment. Table 7 presents two such factors -- sex and ethnicity.

TABLE 6 Number and Proportion of Respondents Enrolled in School or College by Segment, Fall 1983

Segment	Respondents in School		College-Going Rates	
	Number	Percent	Respondents	1982 Graduates
California Community Colleges	1,440	47.5%	35.6%	42.8%
California State University	459	15.1	11.4	9.0
University of California	383	12.6	9.5	6.4
California Independent Schools and Colleges	302	10.0	7.5	3.2
Out-of-State Schools and Colleges	213	7.0	5.3	NA
Other California Schools (ROP/ROCS, Adult Schools, etc)	236	7.8	5.8	NA
TOTAL	3,033	100	75.1	61.4

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission

SEX

A substantially larger than average proportion of men than women reported attending out-of-state postsecondary institutions, and they also compose a somewhat larger proportion of respondents at the University of California than would be expected given their overall response rate. Conversely, the representation of women among respondents attending the California State University and California independent schools and colleges was above average.

ETHNICITY

Even more diversity is apparent among the choices of institutions made by respondents from different ethnic groups.

- A disproportionally large representation of Asian respondents attend the University of California and the California State University.
- Among the American Indian respondents attending school or college, their representation in the California State University is larger than would be expected by their overall participation rate.
- Black respondents who were in school or college were far fewer than would be expected statistically in the State University and more than would be expected in California independent schools and colleges and the University of California.

TABLE 7 Sex and Ethnic Distribution of Respondents Enrolled in School or College by Segment, Fall 1983

Segment	Sex		Ethnic Group					
	Men	Women	Asian	Indian	Black	Filipino	Hispanic	White
California Community Colleges	43.1	56.9	7.0	0.3	4.7	2.0	12.2	73.8
California State University	40.1	59.9	13.6	0.7	2.2	1.8	9.4	72.3
University of California	46.2	53.8	12.6	0.3	6.8	2.1	5.0	73.2
California Independent Schools and Colleges	39.1	60.9	4.6	0.3	9.0	0.7	13.0	72.4
Out-of-State Schools and Colleges	56.8	43.2	2.4	0.5	4.3	0.9	5.7	86.2
Other California Schools	44.5	55.5	6.4	0.0	5.5	1.7	17.9	68.5
1983 Respondent Rate	43.7	56.3	8.1	0.3	5.1	1.7	10.9	73.9
1982 College-Going Rate	48.1	51.9	7.2	1.3	9.5	2.1	14.0	65.9

Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission.

- Filipino respondents who were in school or college had a much smaller than expected representation in California independent schools and colleges and out-of-state schools and colleges and a higher than expected representation at the University and the Community Colleges.

- Hispanic students had the largest participation rate in Community Colleges, California independent schools and colleges, and noncollegiate California public schools, while the University of California and out-of-state institutions were their least likely choices.

- The representation of white respondents was near their expected level in all segments except out-of-state schools, in which they were substantially overrepresented, and other noncollegiate California public schools, in which they were underrepresented.

Each gender and ethnic group of respondents develops a somewhat unique pattern of segmental enrollment. Causes and correlates related to these different patterns will be explored more thoroughly as information about graduates' high school achievements and their eligibility for college becomes available this summer.

RESPONDENTS' REPRESENTATIVENESS OF 1983 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Survey respondents are, of course, a self-selected sample of 1983 high school graduates, and while their postsecondary choices of activities have intrinsic interest, the degree to which they are representative of the entire 1983 high school graduating class is of even more interest and importance for State policy makers. Two basic characteristics of the two groups are their gender and ethnic group composition. In the Commission's High School Curriculum Survey, which formed Part One of its 1983 Eligibility Study, the Commission requested this information from all 1,824 California high schools. As of May 1, 81 percent, or 1,483 of these schools, had returned their surveys, although approximately 2 percent of them failed to report their number of graduates by sex or ethnic group. Staff efforts continue to seek complete and accurate data for all schools in the study, but in order to compare the survey respondents with the total graduating class in terms of sex and ethnicity, the staff has used a variety of means to supply estimates for this 21 percent of the schools.

As more complete information is available from the schools, the staff's present calculation of the sex and ethnicity of the total class will be revised, but Table 8 presents these current calculations and compares them with the respondents to the follow-up survey.

As can be seen, women comprised a larger proportion of the respondents than they do of the graduating class. The respondents also include a substantially larger proportion of white graduates and a somewhat larger proportion of Asian graduates than does the total graduating class. Conversely, Black, Hispanic, and American Indian graduates are underrepresented among responding graduates. Filipino representation among respondents is about the same as in the graduating class.

TABLE 8 Size and Composition of California's 1982-83 High School Graduating Class and Sample of Graduates Responding to the First Follow-up Survey.

Characteristic	All 1982-83 Graduates		Responding Graduates	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	277,670	100.0%	4,038	100.0%
Men	136,548	49.2	1,829	45.3
Women	141,122	50.8	2,209	54.7
Asians	16,992	6.1	263	6.5
Blacks	24,729	8.9	218	5.4
Hispanics	48,465	17.5	460	11.4
Whites	180,994	65.2	2,952	73.1
American Indians	2,054	0.7	10	0.3
Filipinos	4,436	1.6	52	1.7

Based on these facts, the differences of activities and choices among respondents that were described earlier in this report should not be interpreted as an accurate description of all 1983 California graduates, either in total or by subgroup. When more complete information is available about respondents and nonrespondents, the reliability of using the responses to generalize about the patterns of post-high school activities of all 1983 graduates will be evaluated.